

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

1 A potentiometric measuring probe contains an
2 electrolyte (110) as well as a primary reference element
3 (106) and a secondary reference element (108) that are
4 arranged so that the front (148) of an electrolyte
5 deficiency advancing from an opening (112) of the measuring
6 probe arrives at the secondary reference element before it
7 arrives at the primary reference element. The potential
8 difference existing between the primary reference element
9 and the secondary reference element is monitored, and when a
10 predefined tolerance criterion is found to be violated, the
11 elapsed operating time from the point when the measuring
12 probe was put into operation is determined and used as a
13 basis for calculating the remaining operating time of the
14 measuring probe.

(Figure 2)